

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MANAMA 02732 01 OF 02 241328Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----010603 241333Z /40

R 241015Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5549
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY DMPA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 MANAMA 2732

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: XF, BA, US
SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST BRIEFING FOR FOREIGN MINISTER

REF: STATE 303444

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1. BRIEFED FOREIGN MINISTER DEC 22 ON BASIS
REFTEL. I STRESSED OUR FEELING THAT ISRAELI
POSITIONS ARE NOT FINAL ONES AND THAT IN PRIVATE
AS WELL AS IN PUBLIC PRIME MINISTER BEGIN HAS SAID
COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT IS HIS GOAL. I DESCRIBED
FROM FONMIN U.S. ROLE AS PRESIDENT HAS DEFINED IT:
THAT OF SUPPORT FOR EFFORTS PARTIES ARE MAKING AND NOT

ONE OF ENDORSING OR REJECTING THIS OR THAT PROPOSAL. THIS IS FOR PARTIES THEMSELVES TO DO. I SAID THAT WHAT IS NOW TAKING PLACE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT IS GENUINE NEGOTIATION--GIVE AND TAKE WITH COMPROMISE IN THE AIR--AND TWO COUNTRIES DESERVE EVERY CHANCE TO MAKE TALKS SUCCEED.

2. I EXPOUNDED ON OUR IMPRESSION THAT BEGIN HIMSELF IS STILL THINKING THROUGH NEW SITUATION CREATED BY SADAT BY REVIEWING FOR FONMIN REPORTS WE HAVE HAD OF FERMENT AND CHANGE IN ISRAELI PUBLIC OPINION. FONMIN INTERJECTED TO ASK IF I FELT JERUSALEM POST WAS GOOD MIRROR OF ISRAELI LIFE. (HE SUBSCRIBES THROUGH CAIRO). I REPLIED THAT FROM MY EXPERIENCE IN ISRAEL JERUSALEM POST IS NOT TYPICAL OF WHAT ISRAELIS ARE READING IN HEBREW PRESS ON ANY GIVEN DAY. HOWEVER, ON ARAB-ISRAEL DISPUTE JERUSALEM POST EDITORIALS ARE REPRESENTATIVE OF GENUINE BODY OF OPINION IN ISRAEL. (NOTE. I SUSPECT BAHRAINI FONMIN IS NOT ONLY ARAB LEADER OUTSIDE CONFRONTATION STATES WHO IS AWARE THAT ISRAELI PUBLIC OPINION WILL BE KEY TO PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO OUR EFFORTS TO KEEP MEN LIKE HIM IN ARAB WORLD MORE FULLY INFORMED OF EVENTS IF TEL AVIV DAILY PRESS CABLE COULD BE DISTRIBUTED TO MORE POSTS IN ARAB WORLD. WOULD APPRECIATE ADDRESSEES' COMMENTS ON THIS SUGGESTION).

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3. FOREIGN MINISTER SAID HE APPRECIATED USG EFFORTS TO KEEP HIM INFORMED (HE HAD HIGH PRAISE FOR USIS-SUPPLIED VIDEO TAPES) AND SAID HE FELT EVENTS NOW MOVING SO FAST THAT 1977 MIGHT WELL BE THE YEAR IN WHICH WORLD WILL LEARN IF ISRAEL WANTS PEACE ENOUGH TO GIVE UP ITS TERRITOTIRIAL GAINS. FONMIN HOPED ISRAEL'S ANSWER WOULD BE "YES" BUT HE FEARED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE. HE OPINED THAT IF ISRAEL COULD AGREE IN PRINCIPLE THAT ALL OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, INCLUDING EAST JERUSALEM, ARE SOVEREIGN ARAB LANDS, THEN

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

-----010595 241337Z /40

R 241015Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5550
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
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AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 MANAMA 2732

EXDIS

ARABS COULD BE FLEXIBLE, "BUT NOT FOR TWENTY YEARS,"
ABOUT WHEN AND HOW THIS SOVEREIGNTY IS EXERCISED.
ISRAELI DECLARATION OF THIS PRINCIPLE WOULD BE
BREAKTHROUGH COMPARABLE TO SADAT'S VISIT TO ISRAEL.

4. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUERY, FONMIN SAID KING
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HUSSEIN'S VISIT HERE LAST WEEK HAD CONFIRMED GOB IN
ITS "WAIT AND SEE" ATTITUDE. GOB APPROVED OF COURSE
HUSSEIN HAS SET FOR JORDAN IN PRESENT SITUATION
AND KING, IN TURN JK UNDERSTANDS THAT SMALLER GULF
STATES MUST FOLLOW SAUDI COURSE. I ASKED IF KING
HAD BROUGHT TO BAHRAIN ANY IDEA OF WHEN
SAUDIS MIGHT TAKE FIRMER STAND RE SADAT'S
INITIATIVE. HE REPLCED THAT KING HAD SAID
SAUDIS WOULD CONTINUE ON THEIR PRESENT COURSE AT LEAST
UNTIL VISIT TO RIYADH OF PRESIDENT CARTER.

5. FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT VISIT HERE LAST
WEEK OF PNC CHAIRMAN FAHUM HAD BEEN UNREMARKABLE
EXCEPT FOR ONE POINT: FAHUM SAID THAT PLO WOULD
SOON NEED NEW LEADER AND ARABS SHOULD BE PREPARED
TO SEE END OF ARAFAT ERA. ARAFAT WIDELY BELIEVED
TO HAVE CONNIVED WITH SADAT AND THIS WILL BE HIS
UNDOING.
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Message Attributes

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